

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
September 11, 2008
Salish Kootenai College, Pablo, Montana

The September 11, 2008 meeting of the Montana Board of Education was called to order by Governor Brian Schweitzer.

ROLL CALL

Members present were: Regents Stephen Barrett, Clayton Christian, Lynn Morrison-Hamilton, Lila Taylor, Todd Buchanan, Janine Pease, Mitch Jessen and Board of Public Education members Patty Myers, Angela McLean, Storrs Bishop, Cal Gilbert, Sharon Carroll, Kirk Miller, Bernie Olson, and Katie Wood. Ex-officio members present were Governor Schweitzer, Superintendent McCulloch and Commissioner Stearns.

MINUTES

Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes from the January 10, 2008 Board of Education Meeting were approved unanimously as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joseph Anderson, Montana Indian Education Association (MIEA) Board of Directors member, stressed to the Board of Education that the needs of Native American students are ongoing and appreciated the support to help students succeed. In addition, Mr. Anderson presented Governor Schweitzer, Board of Regents Chair, Stephen Barrett, and Board of Public Education Chair, Patty Myers, with sweetgrass that was entwined together representing the bonds that are shared.

Senator Carol Juneau distributed a report published by the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators, Striving to Achieve: Helping Native American Students Succeed. It includes a series of policy recommendations aimed at closing the achievement gap and improving the many aspects involved in providing a quality education to Native students. Senator Juneau announced her pleasure that Cal Gilbert and Janine Pease are Board of Education members as well as Board of Public Education and Board of Regents members respectively representing Native Americans for the state of Montana.

State Superintendent Linda McCulloch welcomed Patricia Chlouber, Secretary's Regional Representative, U.S. Department of Education, Region 8 to the Montana Board of Education meeting. Patricia Chlouber acknowledged the significant educational efforts from Governor Schweitzer, State Superintendent McCulloch and the Board of Education on behalf of Montana students.

Joyce Silverthorne, Director of the Tribal Education Department of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, acknowledged an amendment to federal law addressing equality of access to student records for American Indian students. The legislation is in Congress before the U.S. Senate and Ms. Silverthorne urged support for the idea by the Board of Education. Ms. Silverthorne acknowledged Superintendent Linda McCulloch's support of these efforts with a letter to our congressional delegation.

BOARD COMMENT

Angela Mclean reported that on April 10-12, 2007, the Office of Public Instruction conducted a state review of the Professional Education Unit at the Salish Kootenai College (SKC) in Pablo, MT. The purpose of the review was to validate the Professional Education Unit's Institutional Report (IR) for the Elementary Education Program at SKC. The review was based on the standards articulated in the Board of Public Education's approved 2007-2013 Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards (PEPPS) and Procedures Manual. SKC requested initial accreditation for its Elementary Education program. The Board of Public Education approved the initial accreditation of the Elementary Education program in the Professional Education Unit at Salish Kootenai College.

BOARD REMEMBRANCE

Governor Brian Schweitzer requested that the Board of Education take a moment of silence in remembrance of the terrorist attacks of 9-11 that occurred 7 years ago to the date.

KINDERGARTEN TO COLLEGE WORKGROUP

Janine Pease provided an overview of the Kindergarten to College Workgroup along with the Governor's homework assignments:

- School Readiness
 - Full-time kindergarten
- Students Ready for College and Work
 - Increasing Graduation Rates
 - Dual-Credit/Dual Enrollment
 - Global Competitiveness (Math & Science)
- Coordinate a Technology Network
 - Distance Education
- Close Tuition and Salary Gap
 - Access
 - Affordability
 - Transferability
- Indian Education For All

In connection with the homework assignments, Janine Pease reviewed the priority areas that were established in July 2007 and which educational partners took the lead in directing the work. The Office of Public Instruction led the work of high school to college preparation through the State Superintendent's College Readiness Campaign; the Board of Public Education led the work of dual enrollment state policy along with the Office of Public Instruction through Class 8 licensure and revising the distance learning rule; and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education led the work of linking Education Data Systems along with the Office of Public Instruction through an electronic transcript pilot at the University of Montana with K-12.

The Kindergarten to College Workgroup intends to move forward with the coordination of an education technology network. This is being done by bringing in experts from Microsoft and Apple; facilitating conversations with K-12, higher education, and Teleco Business/Industry; demonstrating technology in the classroom; and creating a technology road map.

MOTION: Dr. Janine Pease moved to re-adopt the Board of Education Resolution to continue the Kindergarten to College Workgroup for two more years. Ms. Patty Myers seconded.

Kirk Miller asked the Board of Education to consider the Executive Secretary to the Board of Public Education becoming a voting member of the Kindergarten to College Workgroup, thereby adding an additional Board of Public Education member to the Workgroup. Dr. Miller went on to explain that this would provide more parity in the Workgroup's voting members.

ADMENDMENT: Dr. Kirk Miller moved to amend the motion by adding the Executive Secretary to the Board of Public Education as another voting member to the Kindergarten to College Workgroup. Mr. Bernie Olson seconded the amendment. Motion passed unanimously as amended.

COMMENT BY GOVERNOR SCHWEITZER

Governor Schweitzer recognized the work of the Kindergarten to College Workgroup and the effectiveness of each educational partner in the homework assignments. He indicated that dual enrollment was one area where Montana was not a leader in the nation and we have more work to do. He restated the value of technology related to on-line learning, virtual instruction, and streaming video incorporated into a system promoting seamless education.

INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL SHOWCASE

The Board of Education relocated to the theatre at Salish Kootenai College for the presentations of the tribal history projects as the Governor's homework assignment in regard to Indian Education for All. Governor Schweitzer wanted Indian Education for All to encompass tribal histories as told by tribal peoples. As part of the Governor's 2005 budget, the legislature funded each tribal college in Montana to record their respective tribal history. The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education provided initial oversight of the projects. In 2007, the state legislature transferred oversight of the projects to the Office of Public Instruction and

appropriated funding to create K-12 teacher – friendly tribal history model curricula from the completed projects. Over the past two years, the tribal colleges have produced a wealth of tribal history materials including CD's, DVD's, books, websites, posters, and teachers' guides. These materials and the progress each college has made was presented in a showcase. Superintendent McCulloch reviewed the history of Indian Education for All funding and introduced Denise Juneau from the Office of Public Instruction. Denise Juneau, Director of Indian Education, introduced the following presidents and project directors of each college:

Salish Kootenai College

- Dr. Joe McDonald (President) and Julie Cajune (Project Director)

Fort Peck Community College

- Caleb Shields (Project Director)

Blackfeet Community College

- Carol Murray (Project Director)
- Lola Wippert (Assistant)

Chief Dull Knife College

- Dr. Richard Littlebear (President and Project Director)

Denise Juneau introduced the Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education (MACIE) members that were present at the showcase.

Fort Belknap College

- Carole Falcon-Chandler (President) and Sean Chandler (Project Director)

Stone Child College

- Melody Henry (President)

Little Big Horn College

- Hubert Two Leggins (Project Director)

Little Shell Tribe

- Russell Boham (Project Director)
- Joellen Shively (Project Researcher)

Each tribe expressed their sincere gratitude for the funding of these projects and it is their hope that the Governor will support continued funding.

Carol Lankford, Tribal Council member spoke on behalf of the Salish-Kootenai Tribal Council.

MOTION: Ms. Patty Myers moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting. Ms. Angela McLean seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Linda McCulloch

Linda McCulloch, State Superintendent
Secretary to the Montana State Board of Education